

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) A method for regulating cold and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:

introducing at least one copy of a regulatory gene encoding a protein into a plant;

expressing the binding protein encoded by the regulatory gene; and

using the expressed binding protein to stimulate expression of at least one environmental stress tolerance gene through binding to a DNA regulatory sequence.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for regulating cold and dehydration regulatory genes in a plant comprising the steps of:

introducing DNA encoding a binding protein capable of binding to a DNA regulatory sequence into a plant;

introducing a promoter into a plant which regulates expression of the binding protein;

introducing a DNA regulatory sequence into a plant to which a binding protein can bind; and

introducing one or more environmental stress tolerance genes into a plant whose expression is regulated by a DNA regulatory sequence.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for regulating a drought regulatory gene in a plant comprising: transforming said plant with a gene encoding a transcription regulating protein encoded by SEQ. ID. No. 1, wherein the protein is capable of selectively binding to a DNA regulatory sequence comprising CAACA, to create

a transformed plant that expresses a drought regulatory gene in the plant at a higher level under a drought condition.

13 – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) Plant material transformed with DNA encoding a cold-regulated transcription factor.

18 – 19. (Canceled)

20 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein said transformation is by effected by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein said gene is operably linked to a promoter.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is constitutive.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is inducible.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said promoter is tissue specific.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method for regulating a cold regulatory gene in a plant comprising: transforming said plant with a gene encoding a transcription regulating protein encoded by SEQ. ID. No. 1, wherein the protein is capable of selectively binding to a DNA regulatory sequence comprising CAACA, to create a transformed plant that expresses a cold regulatory gene in the plant at a higher level in the cold;
- 27 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein said transformation is effected by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.
28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein said gene is operably linked to a promoter.
29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein said promoter is constitutive.
30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein said promoter is inducible.
31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein said promoter is tissue specific.